

Dear Sirs/Madams of the Commerce Committee:

As a lifetime CT resident and animal rescuer, who spends thousands out of my own pocket annually to help control the pet population, save animals and provide a better life for each and every one of them, I implore you to vote NO to HB 5263. These animals need your vote! It's incredibly important for the following reasons:

- Rabbits are the third most common household pet after dogs and cats;
- Due to public pressure, Petco and PetSmart stopped selling pet rabbits;
- These stores now only display rescue rabbits for adoption – the same treatment they give to dogs and cats;
- Whole Foods and other specialty stores stopped selling rabbit meat after concluding there was no market for sales;
- The multi-billion-dollar cosmetic industry has been moving away from using rabbits and other animals in their testing programs due to consumer pressure; and
- While the rest of the country has recognized and elevated rabbits as pets, CT is taking a step backward in proposing this initiative. Is this something our little state should be known for??

Let's not fall in the same category as some of our most deplorable, Southern states, in the treatment of animals. Let's be known for positive change and a state that cares! Please vote NO!

Thank you for your time.

Best,
Tracy S. Michaud